

The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by The Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents a Month.

New York Office: 125 Nassau St., New York, N. Y. Telephone 100. Entered at the Postoffice at Scranton, Pa., as Second-Class Mail Matter.

When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name.

SCRANTON, AUGUST 15, 1899.

The attempted assassination of Maitre Labori by means of a shot fired from behind differs merely in detail from the attempted assassination of Captain Dreyfus by means of forgeries and false reports. The assailant of the eloquent and able French attorney is described as a fanatic clad in homespun. The assailants of Dreyfus were sneaks and cowards clad in gold lace and broadcloth. Inevitable justice will be hastened by this new exhibit of mendacity.

The Man with the Hoe. The man with the hoe will have no one but himself to blame if he does not turn to golden account the bright opportunities of these cheerful August days. Throughout the country there is reported a scarcity in farm labor. An employment agency in Chicago is for several days been advertising its willingness to pay \$4 a day for engineers to run threshing machines, \$4 for feeders and sackmen and from \$2.25 to \$2.50 for common harvest hands, including board, yet it cannot supply the demand for this class of labor which comes to it from the great grain fields of the Northwest. In many cases employment is guaranteed to competent men for a specified period of time, say sixty or ninety days, and yet the supply of workmen is inadequate. In some localities the railroad service has been crippled by the desertion of section hands, who have been tempted by the higher offers of pay to leave the track for the harvest field.

Of course this is a periodical and not a continuous phenomenon, yet it shows that the man with the hoe is not necessarily an abused and downtrodden being. If he stands on his barren half acre and gazes stupidly at the ground it is because in earlier years he lacked the "get-up-and-git" to take advantage of Galusha A. Grow's free homestead act and thereby have a part in the great agricultural operations of the fertile Northwest, which annually, at about this time of the year, culminate in harvests requiring thousands of extra hands. The government is not at fault for this. It gave him the finest free chance than any ordinary citizen ever had offered to him from the powers that be; and it has made those once barren plains to blossom with all the conveniences of modern rural civilization. If the man with the hoe has a kick coming, he should begin by kicking himself.

The reported intention of the new management of the D. L. & W. to return to the normal use of mileage books is welcome information. Idioty never performed a bolder stroke than when it devised the present scheme of exchanging mileage book coupons for tickets, and required this tedious operation to be performed at the same window and before the same official employed in the general sale of tickets.

A Man of Destiny. It is again currently reported that owing to ill-health Vice President Hobart will decline a renomination and that political leaders who are aware of this intention are taking it for granted that the vacancy thus created will be filled by the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt. It is said in support of this theory that within the past few weeks well-informed New Yorkers who had previously looked upon Governor Roosevelt's renomination and re-election as matters of course have ceased to consider them in this light, being assured that Roosevelt would prefer the vice-presidency and that the way to the gratification of this preference will soon be cleared.

We offer this gossip for what it is worth, but at the same time we trust that it is erroneous. An arrangement of the kind suggested would be unworkable for two reasons. In the first place, Mr. Hobart has conducted himself so admirably in the vice-presidential office and in a quiet way been of such effective assistance to the president that his retirement on any account would be regretted. In the second place, the most cursory knowledge of the talents and characteristics of Colonel Roosevelt is sufficient to indicate that as vice-president of the United States he would not be well pleased.

The hard part of our colonial problem is ahead of us. While the new dependencies have been under military rule, the presence of American soldiers in them has been an incentive to watchful public scrutiny of the doings of their administrators, both at Washington and in each of the dependent islands. So long as it shall remain a matter of life and death to the sons of anxious American parents whether the rulers delegated by our government to supervise the public affairs of Porto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines are honest or dishonest men, fit or unfit for their responsibilities, there is scant likelihood of an utter collapse in our system of colonial administration.

The danger will come when the novelty shall have worn off; when most of the troops shall have been called home; when public interest in the experiment, having passed a favorable beginning, shall begin to lag; when the pressure of spoliation for appointive places in the far-away territories shall encounter from public opinion a decreasing opposition; and when, with a good bit of the present moral tension relaxed, the men who serve their country in these distant possessions shall become increasingly exposed to the temptation simultaneously to serve themselves. Our scheme of government is sure to give forth good results when the popular will and the popular conscience are in unison and thoroughly roused: the

peril dates from the moment when these twin agencies of genuine reform show indications of lassitude. The doctrine, so frequently vindicated in our history, that for each emergency in American government Providence may be depended upon to supply the man has for some time, in the judgment of many, been pointing to Theodore Roosevelt as the individual intended by destiny for the coming occasion which we have just outlined. In a peculiar sense he has grown into recognition as a singularly fortunate and admirable type of the common honesty, the native energy and the inherited high purpose of the American people. Successful as a fighter in war, he has shown to even superior advantage as a resourceful, courageous and high-principled worker in peace. His honesty and his nerve are both warranted to last through calm as well as through excitement. He is a growing man, with the capacity for growth which is one of the prime essentials of large statesmanship; and the feeling is already very widely diffused, among thoughtful and critical men as well as among enthusiasts, that the quality of selection which gave to the nation in its recent emergency a Dewey, a Leonard Wood and an Ethelburt Root is the kind of quality needed to safeguard the early stages of the establishment of a colonial system on the basis of common honesty and good faith.

For these purposes a vice presidency is inadequate. The preference of the people is more likely to be in favor of the highest place of all when the appropriate moment shall come in, let us guess, the year 1904.

Very soon, under present intentions of the post office department, you will be able to secure from the letter carrier who delivers mail at your door registration of valuable mail matter which you may desire to have posted. Thus the postal service goes continually forward, and hope is renewed that we shall yet have penny postage.

An Unhealthy Boom in Iron. Whatever may be the value of Mr. Hull's remedy for extraordinary booms in pig iron—which, our readers will remember, contemplates the listing of pig iron certificates on "change and the opening of the production of pig iron to general speculation—the fact is beyond denial that such booms as we are now experiencing are, in the long run, unhealthy. People who are now benefiting will in the near future have to yield an equivalent in suffering on account of this boom and a moment's reflection will show why.

One year ago 187 furnaces were in blast with a weekly capacity of 206,777 gross tons; the year before that 152 furnaces were producing but 165,375 gross tons per week; today, the weekly tonnage, with 244 furnaces in blast, is 267,672, and from one boundary of the country to the others every contrivance which by any ingenuity can be converted into a blast furnace is being rigged up so as to contribute its quota toward supplying the present phenomenal demand. More than that, all the large rail plants are being pushed to their extreme capacity, and large additions in most cases are being planned; every little plant which in ordinary times is hardly worth operating at all is now being dusted out, preparatory to being fitted with rolling mill attachments, and if current reports are trustworthy, several immense new mills and billet mills are to be erected as soon as possible in different parts of the country. The mania to increase production at all hazards has taken general possession of the trade.

Let us frankly admit that all this feverish night-and-day activity is all very well while it lasts. Let us also concede that very likely a new era in demand has been entered upon by the trade in rails, billets and structural shapes; a period of growing markets. But who can rightfully expect this moderate and gradual growth in the export trade to accommodate the titanic and sudden increase in productivity resulting or sure to result from the present spasmodic boom? Unlike some other forms of industry, the steel business requires for its successful conduct not only great capital, which cannot afford to be fallow between booms, but also a class of labor which cannot get together in the busy season and get drift in the slack season. There is in this industry a peculiar need for steadiness both in operations and in profits, and violent fluctuations in prices are diametrically opposed to these cardinal requirements.

Operators of railroads have discovered through sad experience that the jerk and lag style of railroading, the policy of rushing trains one hour and then loitering along with them the next hour, does not pay. Hence a regular rate of speed is decreed and workmen are held to the schedule. Similarly in the iron trade, what is needed is a gradual and steady pull ahead and not fits and jerks, followed inevitably slow down and stops. It ought to be within the ability of the leading influences in the steel rail industry to bring about a better degree of uniformity in these matters. No sensible man can believe that it is a healthy or a wholly necessary condition when the ton of pig iron that in January last could not find a buyer at \$10.50 now brings up into the twenties and is likely to be the year is over to command \$30. This is not genuine business convalescence. It is a form of commercial delirium and for its brief period of abnormal life the iron trade must inevitably pay a round price in subsequent depression.

Exact uniformity is of course out of the question; but are these quick extremes of vicissitude entirely beyond check?

Americans will take notice in connection with the iron trade situation that the government of her Britannic majesty does not put off preparations for war until war is upon it. John Bull sends delegates to the peace conference and kept an eye on Paul Kruger at the same time.

The Boston Transcript gives some idea of the rapid manner in which spruce forests are being devastated in order to supply the demand for wood pulp for the paper-making industry in the following: "A cord of spruce wood is equal to 615 feet board measure, and

this quantity of raw material will make half a ton of sulphite pulp, or one ton of ground wood pulp. Newspaper stock is made up with 20 per cent of ground wood pulp. The best known spruce land, virgin growth, possesses a stand of about 7,000 feet to the acre, taking the best as a basis. Twenty-two acres of this best spruce land will therefore contain 154,000 feet of timber. An average gang of loggers will cut this in about eight days. This entire quantity of wood turned in at any one of the large mills will be converted in a single day into about 250 tons of such pulp as goes to make up newspaper stock. This pulp will make about an equal weight of paper, which will supply a single large metropolitan newspaper just two days.

The picture of Secretary Root as a hard-working, systematic and self-contained man with an unusually quick perception—in short, a human thoroughbred—satisfies the country and convinces it that the change to Root from Alger was wise.

Another National Park. The project to create a great national park or forest reserve in the beautiful lake country of northern Minnesota by setting aside 7,000,000 acres of timberland is one in which all lovers of nature should feel an interest. The tract mentioned is one of the few that have not been reached by the rapacious lumberman and an enterprise looking to its preservation is in prospect. It would put an end to timber devastation in that region, encourage propagation of game, and protect from exhaustion the hundreds of lakes and streams with which that country abounds. But why should the federal government be asked to undertake the project? Why should not the state of Minnesota undertake it, just as New York is undertaking to create a great public park in the Adirondacks? The scheme could not fail to pour money into that state. Already thousands of persons annually visit this wilderness at the headquarters of the Mississippi to hunt and fish and to recover health, and establishment of the proposed park would attract additional thousands. Moreover, it would be Minnesota which would chiefly gain from protection of water and timber supplies in this region. The federal government owns about 3,000,000 acres of land in this tract, and probably there would be no objection to its contributing this land to the park, but it is difficult to see why it should be expected to do more. The park would really be a state institution, and Minnesota is rich and thriving enough to bear the cost of the scheme.

Some of our esteemed Wilkes-Barre exchanges seem disposed to throw themselves into a frenzy over the Republican state ticket mystery. If our friends will take the trouble to inform themselves they may readily see that there is an open field and that the talk of "state-making" is all bosh. In any event, the Wilkes-Barre editors can find better occupation than echoing the walls of the Wanamaker warehouse of the Philadelphia press, who seem to have become entirely unbalanced upon the subject of state politics.

A decrease of 26 per cent. has been noted in the number of bicycles which entered Fairmount park in Philadelphia in July last, compared with the number recorded for July of last year; and the inference that bicycling in general is on the decline seems to be sustained by observation. This, however, is not a cause for regret. As the "bike" goes the "automobile" comes and even in vehicles we have illustrated the invaluable law of the survival of the fittest.

Richard Croker announces that he was wrong in making statements some time ago in favor of retaining the soil won by American soldiers in the Philippines. Any readers who have been in doubt as to whether the administration should be sustained in its endeavor to restore order in the Philippines will doubtless be convinced by this last manifesto. No mistake can be made in adopting a creed in opposition to that of the Tammany chief.

In morals the question whether two, three or all of the Italians lynched at Tallahassee applied for naturalization is not important. An Americanized Italian ought to be as well worthy of the protection of the authorities as any other kind; and in any case the full force of civilization should be brought to bear to wipe out the stain of murder by the mob.

Recent reports from Monroe county indicate that there is a necessity for some of Senator Tillman's regulations in the preparation of the wet goods down there. When citizens of Stroudsburg begin to exclaim: "two-foot black snakes in the morning before breakfast" it is pretty conclusive evidence that the popular beverage needs analyzing.

Governor Bradley and others denounced Congress A. Berry's warning to Colonel Bryan to keep out of the state and avoid being shot at as an insult to Kentucky. They are confident that anti-Goebelites will be satisfied in making faces at the orator provided he refrains from discussing the Baker-Howard affair.

Atkinson is now seeking justification at the hands of returned soldiers from the Philippines. When the boys fully understand that the lives of many of their comrades were sacrificed through the indirect influence of Atkinson and mischief-makers of his class, he will be liable to get satisfaction in quantities too copious for comfort.

Ex-Minister of War Mercler, the leather-lunged accuser of Dreyfus, is another eminent example of the adage that the barking dog never bites.

It is doubtful if the Van Wyck presidential boom will recover from the paralyzing influence of the first dose of knock-out drops.

General McArthur's men would seem to be justified in striking for shorter hours and umbrellas.

VOICE OF THE PRESS.

Paid for News.

All the personal paragraphs and society news that appear in the London papers are paid for except that which relates to the royal family, the nobility and the diplomatic corps. If an ordinary citizen gives ball or marries off his daughter or entertains the Prince of Wales at dinner he is compelled to pay for his story. Mrs. John W. Mackay, Mr. William Waldorf Astor and other ordinary persons, native or foreign, in London society, pay for every notice they receive in the newspapers. The cost of a ball or a wedding costs \$300 or \$400 for every newspaper. The following standing announcement will be found in all London papers: "All society, personal and fashionable paragraphs except those relating to royalty and official incidents, are charged at the rate of one guinea for two lines, each succeeding line five shillings and sixpence additional." Therefore, when any of your friends in London send you a copy of an English newspaper containing a personal notice you may understand it has been paid for.

Making Good His Promise. From the Chicago News. Andrew Carnegie is making pretty good progress in his new work of distributing his wealth. Since issuing his declaration of devoting the remainder of his days to his new work he has given away over half a million, including \$200,000 to an English college. The other day he gave \$100,000 for the new public library building, and has followed this up by the offer of a stipular sum to San Diego, Cal., for a library project. Carnegie is a man of his word, and his promise to the Scotch-American philanthropist to work overtime in his new vocation, has been made good in the making of his self-imposed promise.

Mexico and Silver. From the New York Tribune. Mexico has grown rich under her silver standard not because of, but in spite of it. Her silver standard, being good government, wise economic and commercial arrangements, good faith with the public creditors, hospitality to foreign capital and enterprise and intelligent and systematic encouragement of her home industries. In these conditions it would have taken a century of Chinese cash or Lacedaemonian to prevent her prosperity. Her silver standard, while a detriment to her, could not be blamed for the rapacious activities, which are a gold standard, feeling herself entitled to be up to the level of the most solvent states, and the signs are that she will get it without any great delay.

PERSONAL. Marcus Daly, the copper king, is to take up the residence in a new yacht house building for him in San Francisco. Hogarth and Wringe, the men who will sail the Shamrock, are but little over 20 years of age, and are both sailing in yacht races for several years. The king of Greece delights in taking recreation in the fields. He can plow, cut and bind corn, milk cows, and in short, could do a pinch here a farm going single-handed. Ernest Reyer, the noted French composer, author of "Sigurd," "Salambo," and other operas, as well as many orchestral works, has been made a grand officer of the Legion of Honor. President Eliot, of Harvard, is credited with being opposed to the recent order of the Harvard Law school's faculty which admits women to the law courses, provided they are graduates of Radcliffe. Paul De Longpre, the artist, announces that he will give up working oils and paint altogether. He believes that water colors are better suited to portraying the delicate tints of the flowers which he paints. The late Captain August Lignowsky, of Cincinnati, was the oldest German editor in the United States. He raised a company and served with Carl Schurz in the Mexican revolution. One of his sons is the inventor of the clay pigeon. Professor S. Wataai, a noted savant in the field of natural science, has arrived at Vancouver, B. C., on the way to Japan, where he is to fill a university chair of natural science in Tokio. He was for a year at Johns Hopkins university, and was afterwards in Cambridge, England. Charles E. Bessey, who has just been elected chancellor of the University of Nebraska, has since he first entered college, spent most of his time in botanical research. He is now 37 years of age, and is a natural editor of the American Naturalist, and since 1893 has been editor of Johnson's Encyclopaedia. The Count Leon d'Irval, member of the Belgian diplomatic service, who has just arrived in this country, and is now staying in New York, is a brother of the Belgian Duke of Idrval, besides being a German prince. Likewise enjoys the old title of "Baron Hoboken." He is an uncle of the wife of Colonel Du Paty de Clam. George J. Zolnay, of New York, has received a commission for a statue of Jefferson Davis, to be erected in the family plot in Hollywood cemetery, at Richmond, Va., in the name of his widow and daughter, Mrs. Hayes. The statue is to be seven and a half feet in height, and to rest on a granite pedestal of suitable proportions. Professor Lippold, medical attendant of the pope, says that he cannot remember the time when his august patient was in the habit of eating of the Sacred College, done by age of the Sacred College, the pope exclaimed: "Shall I only remain the last survivor of the cardinal created by Pius IX? In fact, only three besides Leo XIII are now left." Colonel Charles E. Jones, the historian of Georgia, has prepared a list of the surviving Confederate generals. The Confederacy had in all nineteen lieutenant generals, of whom seven still survive. Of the 31 major generals sixteen are living, and of the 35 brigadier generals, 32. In other words, of the 47 general officers, whom the Confederacy confided the leadership of its great armies only 15 remain. The surviving brigadier generals are: James Longstreet, Alexander P. Stewart, Stephen D. Lee, Simon B. Buckner, Wade Hampton, John B. Gordon and Joseph Wheeler. Gen. William Ludlow was stationed at Detroit several years ago in charge of the river and harbor work he was visited by a contractor who wanted to do some government work. With his visiting card, the contractor put on the table a fifty-dollar bill. General Ludlow drew forth two cigars and gave the contractor one of them. The contractor took the bill and seeing a match, he took the fifty-dollar note, twisted it into a lighter, and lit it up. The contractor drew fire, and lit his cigar with it slowly and carefully. Then he handed the burning stump of the bill to the contractor. A well-merited compliment has been paid to a popular author, whose works have given enjoyment and elevation to thousands of readers, by the foundation of a Charlotte Yonge university scholarship in the city of London. The school for girls, Miss Yonge resides at Otterbourne, five miles from the cathedral city, and the idea, which originated with Sir Walter Besant, was heartily taken up, subscriptions having come from all parts of the world. The presentation of an address was made by the Bishop of Winchester to Miss Yonge, who for her years appeared in good health, and was cordially welcomed.

TOO TOO. A tutor who tooted the flute. Tried to teach two young tooters to toot. Said he to the tutor: "Is it harder to toot, or to tutor two tooters to toot?" —Printers' Ink.

ODDITIES IN PRINT.

More than 3,000 persons are buried annually in the paupers' cemetery of Berlin.

In the south within the last five months \$1,000,000 of new capital has been invested in cotton mills.

It is a popular belief that a holly bush planted near a dwelling protects the house from lightning.

There are now published in Paris 2,350 periodicals, nearly 100 more than were issued at the corresponding date last year.

The most costly parliament in Europe is that of France. The senate and chamber of deputies eat up annually \$1,500,000.

There are 85 silk plants in Pennsylvania, and the output of silk ribbon in the state has been doubled in three years.

Kamachka may soon become as popular a resort as the Klondike, as gold has been discovered there in promising quantities.

During the fiscal year of 1897-98, the United States sold \$20,000 worth of typewriters in Mexico and \$15,000 worth in Argentina.

It is estimated that at the beginning of the new century England will have \$200,000,000 tons of coal still unused and available.

The average number of horses killed in Spanish bull fights every year exceeds 5,000, while from 1,000 to 1,200 bulls are sacrificed.

The average weekly wages of the men employed in the cotton mills of Maine are \$7.88, of the women \$5.00 and of the children \$2.73.

Among birds the swan lives to be the oldest, in extreme cases reaching 30 years of age. A swan has been known to live over 152 years.

There are 170 paper and pulp mills in the United States, and annually produce 100 million tons of paper and more than 600,000 tons of pulp.

A German army officer estimates that in the century just closing no less than 30,000,000 men have been killed in war in civilized countries.

NUBS OF KNOWLEDGE. New York is said to have 7,500 barber shops and 25,000 barbers.

Even radishes are adulterated now in Berlin. They are dyed into artificial dye to make them look fresh and pink.

It is the opinion of a German oculist that the use of ordinary slates by school children tends to produce short-sightedness. As a substitute he recommends pen and ink, or an artificial white slate with black pencil. The latter have been introduced in some of the German schools.

Broad street, Philadelphia, is unique in being exactly 113 feet wide and eleven miles long. It is now paved with asphalt for seven miles, but will soon be asphalted its entire length, and thus have the distinction of being the longest and widest smoothly paved straight street in the world. It passes through the heart of the city.

The "shining privilege" on a New York ferry boat line is a valuable one, and the person who acquires it is compelled to pay a good round sum. Then he employs boys to labor for him at \$3 a week. The Staten Island ferry line shining privilege, for instance, is in the hands of a padrone named Vincent Cateogio, who pays \$150 a year for it. He clears at least \$12,000 a year from his management of the bootblackening industry.

In Boston the other day a balky horse halted thirty times on a sidewalk and blocked traffic for over an hour, remaining immovable while mud was rubbed in his mouth, ignoring a blazing paper with which his whiskers were singed and exhibiting the utmost contempt for a blacksnake whip wielded by a muscular driver. A happy thought finally struck a bystander, who procured a soda siphon, and, taking deliberate aim, squirted half its contents in the animal's ear. As soon as he recovered from his surprise the horse started off down the street at a two-minute gait, and the blockade was lifted.

LIFE'S IRONY. For The Tribune. A lad on his vacation went to regions cool and shady. By woodland stream he pitched his tent. Great show of fishing made he. A maul her summer outing took Down by the dashing ocean In certain quiet little nook Just suited to her notion.

Yet strange to say, that girl and boy In their month-apiece vacation Took very, very little joy, Got small exhilaration.

The lad among the pines repined, "The maul sighed by the seaside; "We're here here," filled our sad mind, "While 'All is lonely," she cried.

When reunited were the pair Who'd suffered separation, They vowed henceforth through life to share Both work and recreation.

And now they're living in a cot On means that scarce would board one— Their former outing pleased them not, "But now they can't afford one!" —Oriana M. Williams, Peekville, Pa., Aug. 9.

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and they are the one thing that has fixed me up all right. I am feeling splendid now, and I recommend them to you and all for stomach trouble." —Printers' Ink.